

Message Text

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S E C R E T STATE 199905

FOLLOWING REPEAT SOFIA 1584 SENT ACTION SECSTATEANKARA INFO
SECSTATE 04 AUG 78

QUOTE S E C R E T SOFIA 1584

E.O. 11652: XGDS-4

TAGS: PINT, IZ, BU

SUBJECT: TWO IRAQI KURDS MAY APPROACH EMBASSY ANKARA

1. EMBASSY OFFICER WAS APPROACHED AUGUST 3, IN CONNECTION
WITH POSSIBLE PURCHASE OF PRIVATE AUTOMOBILE, BY TWO IRAQI
KURDS, SABIR 'A. FATAH ABDULLAH, IRAQI PASSPORT
F 151628/198, DOMICILE BAGHDAD, AND MUHAMMAD RASHAD YAHYA,
FROM ERBIL, IRAQ.

2. ABDULLAH, IN HIS MID-30'S, CLAIMED TO BE STUDYING
HYDROLOGICAL ENGINEERING AT CONSTRUCTION ENGINEERING
INSTITUTE IN SOFIA. YAHYA, EARLY TO MID-40'S SAID HE WAS
LIVING IN GENEVA. CONVERSATION WAS PREDOMINANTLY IN FARSI,
WITH ABDULLAH ALSO SPEAKING BULGARIAN.

3. BOTH MEN STATED THEY WANTED TO CONTACT USG TO DISCUSS
MATTERS RELATED TO THE KURDS. YAHYA CLAIMED TO HAVE CON-
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PAGE 02 STATE 199905

TACTS WITH KURDISH EXILE GROUPS IN EUROPE. ABDULLAH SAID
HE HAD GOOD INFORMATION ON ARAB COMMUNIST STUDENTS AND
THEIR ACTIVITIES IN BULGARIA. BOTH MEN SAID THEY WERE
GOING TO ANKARA THIS WEEKEND AND SAID THEY WOULD CONTACT
THE US EMBASSY THERE. THEY WISH TO MEET WITH ARABIC-
SPEAKING USG REPRESENTATIVE.

4. BOTH ABDULLAH AND YAHYA WERE EXTREMELY CAUTIOUS IN DISCUSSING THEIR BUSINESS. LOCAL CIRCUMSTANCES HERE PREVENTED OUR QUESTIONING EITHER OF THE TWO MORE CLOSELY TO ASCERTAIN THEIR BONA FIDES. NEITHER CLAIMED TO BE POLITICAL REFUGEE, NOR DID THEY SEEK ANY VISA ASSISTANCE.

5. WE WOULD BE INTERESTED IN LEARNING OF ANY APPROACHES TO EMBASSY ANKARA. (ABDULLAH MAY HAVE INFORMATION OF INTEREST TO US HERE. HE SAID HE PLANS TO RETURN TO SOFIA BETWEEN AUGUST 18 AND 23, AND WOULD CONTACT EMBOFF FOR PURCHASE OF THE VEHICLE.)
GARTHOF

UNQUOTE CHRISTOPHER

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